

2152

PATENT

Attorney Docket No. 5384/55373

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Wojdyla et al.)
Serial No.: 10/007,690)
Filed: December 4, 2001)
For: Method and System)
for Mail Security)
and Traceability)

Group Art Unit: 2152

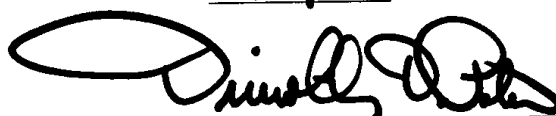
Examiner:

OCT 17 2002

Technology Center 2100

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Post Office as first class mail, postage prepaid, addressed to: Hon. Commissioner for Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231 on:

Oct 7, 2002

 Oct 7, 2002

Timothy T. Patula
Reg. No. 30,791

Date

Hon. Commissioner of Patents
and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

PETITION TO MAKE SPECIAL UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.102(d)

Dear Sir:

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.102(d), the Applicant hereby petitions that the above-entitled application be made special and given immediate action on the merits. The application relates to an invention for countering terrorism (MPEP §708.02.XI: Invention for Countering Terrorism).

Specifically, the application relates to an apparatus that aids in the detection of anthrax and other terrorist delivery devices that operate through a mail system.

The security of the U.S. Postal System is vulnerable to terrorism as demonstrated by the anthrax attacks that occurred in September 2001. Effective approaches are needed to combat future threats and prevent the spread of contamination that is caused by

cross-contamination when mail is processed through automation equipment such as sorting machines. Identification of the origin of the mail is critical to eliminate or minimize damage caused by hostile mail, and to prevent disruption of the flow of mail.

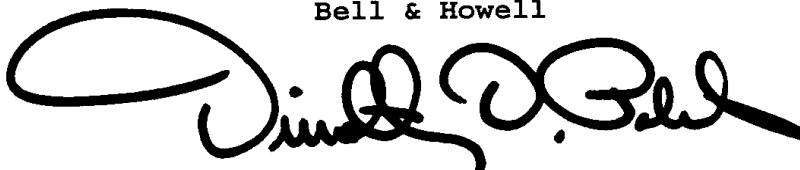
Disruption of mail flow effects the operation of both the government and commerce, thereby causing a serious effect on the economy, as well as individuals. The "Method and System for Mail Security and Traceability" invention helps resolves this problem.

This patent application directly protects our Government, businesses, and citizens. The urgent need to be made special is essential in order to provide this technology to the greater safety of American citizens and Businesses. This application falls well within the criteria for Petition to Make Special.

Attached hereto is an affidavit describing how the above-entitled application has particular features for countering terrorism.

Granting of this Petition is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
Bell & Howell

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Timothy T. Patula".

Timothy T. Patula
Attorney for Applicant
Reg. No. 30,791

Enclosures:
Affidavit - Mr. Richard Wojdyla

02mg94